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REPORTS

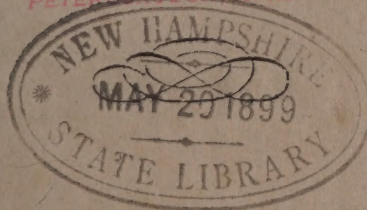
—OF THE—

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
COMMITTEE ON TOWN LIBRARY,
TOWN TREASURER, AND SELECTMEN,

FOR THE

TOWN OF PETERBORO',
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1857.

JAMES F. BRENNAN,
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
PETERBOROUGH, N. H.



PETERBOROUGH:
TRANSCRIPT OFFICE ----- K. C. SCOTT, PRINTER.
1857.

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1875

JAMES F. BRENNAN,
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
PETERBOROUGH, N. H.

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Town of Peterborough :—

The Superintending School Committee, having attended to their duties, respectfully submit the following Report:—

For the past three years your Committee have deemed it advisable to report each school kept in town during the year, separately. We should pursue the same course the present year, were it not that a report of each school, together with the general suggestions which we deem it important to make at this time, would make our Report lengthy and tedious.

In view of some failures in our schools, which characterize them the present year, we feel that the warm friends of education in town are asking in their hearts "Watchman, what of the night?" We cannot answer, in honest sincerity, "All is right." — With all the ardent efforts of the best friends of our schools, with the increased expenditure of money, with institutes and the teachers whom they send out, we still have radical failures and a portion of our school money is worse than thrown away. This certainly ought not to be. It can and *must* be remedied.

We must try to find out the causes of these failures and then propose a means of prevention and cure. Our teachers are generally thoroughly qualified in the branches which they are required to teach—our school-houses in the main are comfortable and convenient and supplied with the necessary apparatus, and our children well supplied with books. So far as the expenditure of money could improve them, with the exception of affording longer terms, there is little left undone that would bestow upon them any real, practical advantage, not now enjoyed.

When we have entered a capacious, well constructed, well ventilated school room, abundantly supplied with maps and blackboards, the pupils seated, each on his own domain, comfortably

dressed, and well supplied with books, with a well qualified, kind, experienced, self-sacrificing teacher to direct them, who is willing to pour out the best energies of his life at their feet, we have been led to ask, "Children, what higher privileges than these can you have the effrontery to demand? Is it possible that you will trample these pearls under your feet?"

Yet a school, commencing under circumstances so genial and promising, fails and is almost utterly worthless. It has every essential advantage that could insure success but one, and that one is more indispensable than all the rest. There is no government in the school. Anarchy reigns supreme. There is no executive authority at the head. The pupils have not been made to know that by some instrumentality order, decency, and respectful deportment, will be inexorably exacted of each and all of them.—They, the scholars, having been, many of them, rulers and tyrants at home, expect to exercise the same authority in the school-room. If their dominion is questioned, they foment a rebellion at once. The teacher preferring peace to open war, yields to their dictation, flatters their vanities and vices, and is in fact but a passive instrument in their hands. If they are pleased with his address and personal qualities, they tolerate him so long as he walks submissively under their rule. If, on the contrary, they do not like the tone of his voice, the curl of his lip, or the cut of his coat, they commence at once to sow dissension with a view to assume the reins of government and depose the unfortunate pedagogue who has been placed in authority over them. The success or failure of the school is left entirely to their whims and caprices. If they will it, the school must be converted into a pandemonium, and the money it costs squandered to no purpose. The number of pupils of this character, is very small in some schools and considerably larger in others. We are sorry to make these representations to you, parents, but it is no romance. It is a great fact which stares us openly in the face and it is of no avail to try and wink it out of sight.

This dominion of scholars and tame submission of teachers it is, that seriously threatens the perpetuity and success of our free school system. A sterner, more inflexible system of school government must be instituted and enforced before we can ever hope to see our schools advancing permanently and steadily towards the

perfect ideal. We make progress this year under the present *regime*, but while our system is so ill-compacted and loose that the merest accident, the whims and prejudices of children, are allowed to destroy all that we have done; how vain to expect ultimate and complete success. In moments of doubt and discouragement we have sometimes thought that our boasted progress was somewhat like the famous old frog's egress from the well, that fell back by night what he advanced by day.

There should be nothing left to chance, or accident, in school-government. Executive authority should in all cases be asserted and maintained in school. We need not inquire whether this can be done with or without the infliction of corporal punishment. We must first decide that at all hazards it shall be done. When we have unitedly agreed that, come what may, "order shall reign in Warsaw," we shall not be so prone to quarrel about the instrumentalities to be employed to effect this. Let us first decide that children have ruled in school, as well as in the family, long enough, and that it is high time that they should be deposed and a more discreet and stable authority substituted. When we have thus decided, we shall not set down our Puritan ancestors for simpletons and barbarians because they chose to exact obedience of their children, even at the expense of a frequent and judicious application of the 'birch.'

The end to be attained is so desirable that it ought, except in cases of extreme recklessness and cruelty in discipline, to justify the means.

Now, what are the causes that have been leading by slow and almost imperceptible steps to the present laxity in school government? How far are teachers responsible for it? How far are parents responsible? What must be done by parents, teachers, and committees, to restore the old *regime*, and have implicit obedience to just and wholesome school regulations exacted of all the pupils in our schools? The causes will suggest the remedy.

The first and most potent of all these causes, is the laxity of home discipline that characterizes our age. It does not come within our province to enter largely into the discussion of this fruitful and interesting theme. But correct family discipline and school discipline are so inextricably blended that they must be considered together. Neglect of the former makes the latter necessarily diffi-

cult and severe. The child that has been early taught and compelled to bow respectfully and reverently before paternal authority and restraint, will generally yield a cheerful and willing obedience to his superiors in all the walks of life. The one that has had its whims and caprices gratified, until it has become a "little tyrant" in the home circle, will naturally chafe and fret some under the reins of school. But sometime in early life the lesson of submission and self-government must be instilled into the heart, or recklessness, insubordination and a total disregard of the rights and customs of civilized society, will be the inevitable result.—How important, then, that this lesson be very early inculcated under the watchful eyes of parents, within the sacred retreat of home.

But, if parents are false to their heaven-born obligations to their offspring and the society in which they live, and their children, having never learned to heed the command, "Honor thy father and thy mother," grow up reckless, rude, uncourteous, disorderly, wicked and profane, must the school, recreant to its duty to the State, be poisoned and ruined by their insubordination, or ought it not rather to make up for this defect in domestic training by the enforcement of a stern and inflexible government, thereby shielding society in part from the corrupting and ruinous influences of parental neglect. We cannot insure to our schools exemption from the baneful effects of the defective home-training of children, but we need not, therefore, tamely cower down before this evil influence, and give our schools over to the powers of darkness. We must subdue what is refractory and rebellious, so far as is practicable, and what is not tamable, must be expurgated.

Another fruitful cause of insubordination in schools, is the employment of teachers too young to instruct and govern them. So long as we have refractory boys and girls to educate, it is the veriest nonsense to install, as instructors, over our largest Winter schools, beardless and inexperienced youths who are yet in the gristle of boyhood. If parents desire to have their children respect and obey the teacher, they must be careful to place in command over them a person whose length of years, maturity of mind, and decision and force of character, entitle him to respect and obedience. This installing boys into an office that few men are competent to fill, has been the direct cause of several failures in our schools during the past five years.

We would not withhold encouragement from promising and talented youths, but they must be content to serve their early apprenticeships in small schools for small pay, before they aspire to the higher and more responsible stations. Children who creep before they attempt to walk, get fewer knocks and bruises.

In regard to the employment of females to instruct Winter schools, no definite rule of action can be laid down. It is a question which must be left entirely to the best judgment and discretion of parents and prudential committees. If the school is small, the amount of school-money quite limited, and a healthy public sentiment pervades the district, the employment of an experienced female is unquestionably the wisest economy. If the school is comparatively large and the amount of school-money sufficient to insure a term of reasonable length, with the employment of a man of distinguished ability and experience, such a man should by all means be employed. If the choice should be between a female of high rank, as an instructress, and a male of doubtful capabilities, success will be more certain with the female. If there are in the schools pupils of bad character and influence, who are disposed to rule, it will be the wiser course to put in a man, whose age, experience, and physical qualifications will be a sure guarantee of good government, however short the term. A few weeks of a well governed and orderly school, are worth as many months of one where there is neither authority, nor restraint.

To entrust the management of our village schools, which are ungraded, for the winter terms, to females, is hazardous in the extreme and has in some cases sown seeds of insubordination which it takes years to eradicate. The school in such cases may go on quietly enough, the pupils being entirely satisfied because they are left to the undisturbed possession of the reins of government, there being no opposition to their absolutism worth any serious contention. They tolerate the teacher because in turn their shortcomings in duty are tolerated and excused. Parents must see to it in season and not mistake this serenity for a well-regulated and well-governed school. The volcanic elements are still unsubdued, and it needs only restraint to produce a fresh eruption.

Having considered some of the causes of the growing laxity in school discipline, we now proceed to point out how far teachers and how far parents are responsible for this. The idea is quite too prevalent that any one who has the necessary literary qualifi-

ications, will answer well enough for a teacher in the district school. Nothing could be mere fallacious. In the first place not every scholar can teach well. A distinguished educator in our State very wisely says "A teacher must not only possess knowledge but an ability to communicate it. He must have a facility to impart as well as to receive. His perceptions must be clear and distinct. The memories of some are more retentive than suggestive. Their minds may move with ease and grace in the study, but in the presence of others are awkward and confused.—Such persons may acquire celebrity as writers, but can never become eminent as teachers. It is time that the gift of teaching be considered as a peculiar faculty, depending upon an original structure of the mind, which art may improve but can never create.—It is amongst the rarest kinds of intellectual excellence. And no one should be encouraged to engage in this pursuit unless he has a natural aptitude and fitness for it." Again, not every one who can teach well, can govern well. And good government is quite as indispensable in our common schools, as good teaching. In fact children must be governed before they can be taught.

Very many of the failures in our schools are directly attributable to the want of tact, energy, and good judgment in teachers, but not all of them. The teacher's culpability, in these cases, depends entirely upon the circumstances with which he is surrounded. If he is in a community that will sustain him fully and cordially in enforcing strict and thorough discipline and still allows his authority to be trampled upon and anarchy to reign in his school, he is justly censurable, and when his incapacity to govern in these favorable circumstances, becomes evident, he should be summarily but respectfully dismissed and recommended to a calling where he can be more useful. It should not avail him much to put in the plea that the pupils are old enough to govern themselves.—Men might be supposed to be *old enough* to govern themselves, yet every attempt to dispense with written law, leaving men to be controlled by their discretion and sense of right and equity, has signally failed. It is the strong arm of the law, that ensures peace and safety in society, and without it all would be strife and confusion. Children are not more discreet than men. They cannot, therefore, even in our higher schools, be left to govern themselves by their own sense of propriety. Order in school can be main-

tained, as it is in society, by judicious laws enforced by a strong executive arm, and in no other way.

But the influences which surround a teacher, are not always favorable to good government. He has not only his own legitimate duties to perform in governing his school, but is disheartened and discouraged by the unwise interference of parents, either directly or indirectly. He must govern, to insure success, not only his school, but what is still more unpleasant and arduous, a portion of the neighborhood. He is continually annoyed in the discharge of his duties by those wiseacres who, not content to advise what they may deem the best course in the discipline of their children, presume to dictate what may or may not be done. There are few parents who directly counsel their children to open rebellion. Yet the complacency with which they listen to their fault-findings, the sympathy they express to them in their troubles, brought on by their own waywardness and disobedience, and the prejudices they imbibe against the teacher and help to instil into their children's hearts, is a source of insubordination, which the ablest teacher cannot successfully combat.— The duty of parents towards a teacher, is no divided one. If he is unfit in any respect to be entrusted with the management and education of their children, it is their privilege, as well as duty, to have him speedily deposed and dismissed. But so long as they allow him to retain his office, instead of throwing obstacles in his path and inflaming the prejudices of their children, they should give him their aid and sympathy, sustaining him in the full exercise of his delegated authority, smoothing his rough and tiresome way, and co-operating with him to make his labors and sacrifices conduce to the greatest advancement and highest welfare of his pupils. Unless parents do their whole duty in this respect, the teacher cannot be held responsible for a profitless and unsuccessful school.

When the teacher is a high-minded, resolute, worthy man, punctilious in the discharge of his own responsibilities and duties, and, exacting the same of others, finds arrayed against his authority a portion of his pupils, backed up by parental influence at home, he may well refuse to carry on the unpleasant warfare and retire voluntarily from a conflict, in which there can be little hope of ultimate success. Indeed, it will be well for teachers, parents, and committees to resolve to have orderly schools, or no

schools. Better save the money than have it expended for the injury of those whom it is designed to benefit.

In those schools where difficulty has occurred the past year, it is important that prompt measures be taken to better their condition. Let men of energy, tact and experience be employed to instruct and govern them, having due regard to their physical as well as intellectual capabilities. Let parents resolve to have their school governed at all hazards, and sustain heartily and cordially teachers and committees in enforcing any discipline that may be needed to effect this desirable result.

There is another unpleasant feature in our schools, mentioned in the Report of last year. This is the low moral tone that pervades some of them. The most disgusting and revolting profanity is tolerated in them, and is quite too generally practised by the scholars. Language is uttered on the floor of some of our school-rooms, in the presence of young scholars, that would shock the sensibilities of any parent who has any regard for his children. Parents will do well to give this subject their serious consideration, and adopt the wisest course to check, and, as far as may be, prevent this alarming evil.

A much purer and healthier moral atmosphere pervades the small districts in the borders of the town, than is being breathed by the scholars in the village schools.

But notwithstanding these blemishes upon the fair character of our schools, there is yet exhibited in them much that is highly gratifying, promising, and hopeful. We have been considering the shady side. There is, also, a sunny side. With all their deficiencies they are vastly improved from the "district school as it was," which we and our fathers attended. Though some of the grey-haired men among us, whose opinions are worthy of respect, may compare them unfavorably with the schools of their boyhood, we are inclined to believe that an hour or two spent in listening to the anecdotes which they relate of battles fought and victories won in their school days, in which they acted Quixotic parts, will convince any reflective mind, after making all due allowance for romance, that in point of discipline, even, our present schools are far superior. The different branches are more thoroughly and practically taught than formerly, and the amount of labor, performed by the teachers, greatly increased. Indeed, the modern system of instruction is faulty in exacting too much of teachers, requiring

of them not only to lead and support their scholars along the rugged paths of learning, but to bear them upon their shoulders.— There is too much of the *pouring in* by teachers, and not enough pains taken to stimulate and encourage pupils to help themselves. The mind can never become strong and vigorous, until it is disciplined to grapple with and conquer difficulties by its own persevering and determined efforts. The result of this over-teaching induces in children indolence, superficiality, and a want of self-reliance, destructive alike to thorough scholarship and true success in life.

We have visited all the schools at their commencement and all but one at their close. This one, the Winter school in No. 11, closed up without an examination on account of severe weather, which kept the scholars from school. We learn that the school was satisfactory. There have been many excellent schools in town, Winter and Summer, during the year, although their general success will not compare favorably with the previous year.— There has been no manifest failure, the terms of all having been completed. The schools which were regarded as especially meritorious and worthy of the highest commendation, were the summer schools in Districts Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9, all of which were instructed by experienced teachers. The school in the 1st department of No. 1, was instructed by a teacher who has deservedly ranked as one of the first in Cheshire County, and yet the results were neither entirely satisfactory to her, nor your committee. All the schools in this district were seriously damaged by the general prevalence of the measles. The Summer school in the 3d department, was well managed, and the fall term, under the charge of the same instructress, was one of the best we have had in this department. The Summer terms in Nos. 8 and 11, were entirely satisfactory, being instructed by young teachers who gave promise of future usefulness and success.

The Winter schools which may be said to have occupied the first rank, were the 2d department in No. 1, and those in Nos. 2, 3, 6, 8 and 12. The school in No. 7 was commenced by Mr. James C. Partridge, who saw fit to withdraw from it at the end of the first week, on account of *indisposition*. The term was successfully completed by Mr. Chas. Wilder, who is entitled to great credit for the decision and energy with which he discharged his duties.

The school in No. 5 was successfully instructed; the teacher, being an initiate in the profession, did all that could reasonably be expected of him. The first department in No. 1, though instructed by a teacher who possessed the highest literary qualifications, was practically a failure, on account of defective discipline. The school in No. 9, was not very harmonious, and towards the close, the order was not sufficiently good to make it profitable. Two pupils were expelled by the committee for improper conduct and non-compliance with the teachers requirements. The general faults which characterized these schools, were superficiality, the result of trying to crowd scholars too far in a single term, and a want of *practical* training by the teachers, who confine themselves too much to the text-books. There are many scholars in town who have been repeatedly through Adams's Arithmetic, and, doubtless, performed all the examples in the book, who appear to know very little without the book. Their knowledge is not practical. More pains should be taken to instil principles into their minds which they can successfully apply in the common business of life. Teachers must try and educate their pupils so that they will have some knowledge to carry home with them.

Colburn's Arithmetic does not yet receive that attention which its importance demands. There were but two or three classes in this, during the year, that were entitled to much credit. This is the child's most useful book and it must be better taught.

Books. We have always been opposed to a frequent change in books, but there is one book in our schools, that should give place to a better one. This is Emerson's Primary Arithmetic. It is a tolerably good picture book at best. We recommend Colburn's First Step in Numbers, to take its place. In addition to the present text-books, we recommend Robinson's Elementary Algebra for beginners. Advanced classes may continue to use Day's Revised Algebra. Physical Geography is comparatively a new, but very useful science. It may be very profitably studied by the older pupils in our schools. We recommend for a text-book, "Outlines in Physical Geography," by Geo. W. Fitch.

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.—District No. 11, Dr. D. K. Bou-telle, G. A. Jewett, Stephen White. No. 2, N. H. Moore. No. 3, Dr. P. D. Badger. No. 5, John Stewart. No. 6 and 10, Franklin Smiley. No. 7, Samuel Miller, 2d. No. 8, Joel Had-

ley. No. 9, J. Fay. No. 11, Geo. H. Longley. No. 12, P. R. Davis.

The Teachers of the Summer Schools, were, District No. 1, First Department, Miss Eliza Adams, of Dublin; Second Department, Miss Abbie E. Dow, of Hancock; Third Department, Miss Sara A. Wood, of Temple; No. 2, Miss Julia Moore; No. 3 and 4, Miss S. E. Robbins, of Jaffrey; No. 5, Miss Ellen M. Morrison; No. 6, Miss Mary J. Parker; No. 7, Miss Charlotte McCoy; No. 8, Miss Mary J. Dickinson; No. 9, Miss M. E. Dennis, of Hancock; No. 11, Miss Emma Converse.

The Teachers of the Winter Schools, were, District No. 1, First Department, Albert L. Long, of Concord; Second Department, Leonard J. Brown, of Amherst; Third Department, Miss M. E. Dennis, of Hancock; Fourth Department, Miss S. A. Wood, of Temple; No. 2, Chas. A. Wood, of Hancock; No. 3, Miss S. E. Robbins, of Jaffrey; No. 5, John S. Smith; No. 6 and 10, Miss Augusta F. Ames. No. 7, J. C. Partridge and Charles Wilder. No. 8, Miss M. E. Dennis. No. 9, P. W. Messenger, of Stoddard. No. 11, Miss Mary A. Campbell, of Chesterfield; No. 12, Miss Maria A. Cummings, of Hancock.

STATISTICS OF SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Average length of Summer Schools was 10 19-22 weeks—last year 10 1-3 weeks. Whole number of scholars 340—last year 313. Average attendance, 234—last year 258. Whole number of tardinesses, 460—last year 311. Number not tardy, 194—last year, 183. Number not absent 16—last year 40. Number neither absent nor tardy, 14—last year 32. Average wages of teachers, per month, including board, \$14.13. Number of visitors, 611—last year 554. Visits by Superintending School Committee 35,—by Prudential Committee, 23.

STATISTICS OF WINTER SCHOOLS.

The average length of schools was 10 11-13 weeks—last year 12½ weeks. Whole number of scholars, 457—last year, 458. Average attendance, 356—last year, 371. Number of tardinesses, 670—last year 622. Number not tardy, 211—last year 272.—Not absent, 34—last year, 64. • Average wages of male teachers per month including board, \$34 16—of female teachers including

board, \$19 84. Number of visitors 510—last year 658. Visits by Superintending Committee 28 ; by Prudential Committees, 44.

We have thus reported to you the general condition of your schools during the past year, making such suggestions in regard to their future management as we believe their welfare demands. The present is no time for the friends of popular education to unbind their armor and relax their philanthropic efforts to benefit these schools. Parents, you have it in your power by combined, harmonious and continued exertion to make them what the early fathers of New England designed them to be, nurseries of intelligence, morality and public virtue. Neglect them and they will degenerate into hot-beds of vice, where lawlessness, immorality, irreverence and irreligion, are nourished and fostered. As we again commit these schools to your care, we ask you, as Christians, who have at heart the highest good of your children and your race, as patriots who love your country for the freedom of thought and action which its institutions confer, to guard them watchfully and prayerfully. To them are we especially indebted for all that we love and venerate in the past history of our country ; in them is our surest hope for the future. If evils threaten them, be vigilant and hopeful. The doubts must be silenced and the obstacles overcome. " Who is he that says there is a lion in the way? Sluggard, thou must slay the lion ; the way has to be traveled.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT S. SCOTT,
HORACE MORISON,

Superintending School Committee.

TABLE FOR SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Districts,	1	2	3&4	5	6&10	7	8	9	11	12
Length of schools in weeks,	11½	11½	11½	12	18	8	11	14	8	
Wages of teacher per month including board,	\$21	20	17	14	18	10	11	15	9	8
Whole number of scholars,	47	48	57	39	38	12	23	37	10	33
Males,	13	18	24	17	17	7	11	16	7	10
Females,	34	30	33	22	21	5	12	21	3	7
Average attendance,	30	37	32	28	27	8	18	16	5	25
Number of scholars over 16,	3	0	0	2	3	1	0	2	35	10
Number between 4 and 16,	44	48	57	37	35	11	23	21	7	10
Number of tardinesses,	129	25	8	104	15	28	18	80	13	No School.
Number not absent,	2	0	0	0	6	0	2	3	0	0
Number not tardy,	14	39	52	7	32	3	12	13	6	
Number neither absent or tardy,	2	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	
Number of dismissals,	155	63	151	51	12	3	14	48	11	
Number of visitors,	111	135	118	56	86	11	12	50	23	
Number of visits by Superintending Com.,	5	5	6	2	3	2	2	3	3	
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,	5	5	6	0	2	0	0	1	1	

TABLE FOR WINTER SCHOOLS.

Districts,	1										2									
	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
Length of schools in weeks,	10½	10½	10	10	9	11	8	18	9	12	12	11	11	10						
Wages of teacher per month including board,	\$46	34	20	16	38	26	22	16	33	40	16	56	25	16	8					
Whole number of scholars,	53	53	50	55	51	42	18	40	25	11	40	15	4	4						
Males,	30	24	18	27	30	26	15	20	14	7	23	9	3	3						
Females,	23	29	32	28	21	16	3	20	11	4	17	6	1	1						
Average attendance,	39	43	41	44	37	35	14	23	23	8	34	12	3	2						
Number of scholars over 16,		0	0	0	6	11	5	4	6	2	4	6	2	2						
Number between 4 and 16,		53	50	55	55	31	13	36	19	9	36	9	2	2						
Number of tardiness,	120	81	60	61	46	43	40	60	51	10	14	27	12	12						
Number not absent,		2	0	3	4	3	3	2	6	0	8	2	1	1						
Number not tardy,		22	34	50	13	24	8	9	12	5	30	3	1	1						
Number not absent or tardy,		2	0	3	4	3	3	2	6	0	6	2	1	1						
Number of dismissals,		88	72	53	11	20	19	4	37	1	13	1	1	1						
Number of visitors,		63	50	101	11	64	22	30	40	52	61	14	7	7						
Number of visits by Superintending Com.,	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2						
Number visits by Prudential Committee,	3	3	4	4	2	1	1	1	1	11	4	1	1	7						

REPORT

—OF THE—

COMMITTEE ON TOWN LIBRARY.

The undersigned having been appointed by the Selectmen a committee to take charge of the Town Library for the current year, have attended to their duties and submit the following report.

Your committee immediately after their appointment requested the Selectmen to make some repairs in the Library Room for the better protection of the books, which request was readily complied with and the repairs promptly made.

BOOKS.

We have added to the Library during the year 58 volumes, 30 of which were books presented by Horace Morison Esq: last year.

Number of new books purchased	28
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Number lost during the year,	7
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This is less than the average number annually lost since 1850.

The volumes lost are "Sunny Side," No. 516; "Autobiography of an Actress," No. 988; "British Spy," No. 469; "Indian Tales and Legends," 591 and 592; "White Jacket," 1298; "Parley's Columbus," 1257.

Any one, who may be able, is requested to give information to the Librarian, where these books may be found.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT.

1856, Aprl. 1.	Received of former Committee	\$43,38
1857, March, 2.	" " Librarian	,12

\$43,50

1856, May, 7.	Paid for new Books	\$29,83
" " 13,	Paid for Binding	9,68
" " "	Paid for Transportation	1,13

\$40,64

Balance	\$2,86
Received from Town Treasurer	45,00

In the hands of the Committee	\$47,86.
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We return our thanks to the Librarian, Miss Susan Gates, for the faithful manner in which she has discharged her duties and the kind and ready assistance, afforded the committee in the performance of their labors.

Respectfully submitted

A. S. SCOTT,	} Committee
C. G. CHENEY,	
N. D. STOODLEY.	
	on
	Librarian:

Peterborough, March 10, 1857.



TREASURER'S REPORT.

Town of Peterborough in account with Henry Steele.

1856.

Credit.

April 2,	to cash received of J. N. Thayer, Collector,	\$60 00
" 26 "	" " " " " " Selectmen borrowed of Cum-	
	mings,	300 00
May 28,	" " " " " " Balance in Treasury,	255 75
July 24,	" " " " " " for License of Circus,	30 00
Sept. 6,	" " " " " " J. H. Steele, State Literary	
	Fund,	148 96
Aug. 30,	" " " " " " Selectmen borrowed of B.	
	Osmore,	400 00
Nov. 11,	" " " " " " " " " "	
	Peterborough Bank,	1070 00
Dec. 6,	" " " " " " J. N. Thayer, Collector,	75 00
1857—Jan. 1,	" " " " " " Selectmen Highway Tax,	211 63
" " "	" " " " " " A. S. Scott, State R. R. Tax,	35 73
" " 22,	" " " " " " J. N. Thayer, Collector,	100 00
" " 26,	" " " " " " Selectmen Subscription List,	806 00
" Feb. 14,	" " " " " " J. N. Thayer, Collector,	150 00
" " 28,	" " " " " " " " " "	100 00
" March 3,	" " " " " " G. P. Felt, town of Jaffrey,	
	for Hose,	25 25
" " "	" " " " " " J. N. Thayer, Collector,	115 00
	Whole Am't of Tax List,	\$5,248 20
	Uncollected,	447 51

\$4,800 69

Amount paid before Sept. 15,	\$414 47	
Less 7 per cent.,	29 01	385 48
Amount paid before January 10,	4,386 22	
Less 5 per cent.,	219 31	4 166 91
Whole amount actually received,		4,552 39
Whole Amount of Engine Tax List,	865 17	
" " " " " " Uncollected,	72 71	

792 46

Am't Pd. before Sept. 15,	69 93	
Less 7 per cent.,	4 89	65 04
Amt. Pd. before Jan. 10,	722 53	
Less 5 per cent.,	36 13	686 40
Whole Amount actually received,		751 44
To cash received of Asa Davis, Liquor Agent,		284 19

\$9 471 34

Town of Peterborough in account with Henry Steele. - Debt.

To paid State Tax for 1856,	\$567 70
To paid County Tax for 1856,	1,030 26
“ “ Interest on money borrowed of same,	11 25
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	\$1,041 51

To Repairs on Roads and Bridges.

To paid David Wilson, Damage on Land taken for Road,	\$10 00
“ “ Asa Carley for Plank and Stringers,	3 42
“ “ E. S. Dickerman for Plank,	3 84
“ “ John Parker, “ “	5 62
“ “ J. S. Morrison, “ “	30 29
“ “ J. D. Holmes “ “	8 55
“ “ A. T. Woodward, “ “	17 80
“ “ Richardson and Lakin, Building bridge at R. Richardson's,	90 42
“ “ J. McGilvray for work on Road,	2 00
“ “ Calvin Leathers “ “ “	4 98
“ “ C. H. Brooks “ “ “	75 00
“ “ S. B. Piper & Co., making Causeway and Boards,	8 50
“ “ Buss & Rourke Irons for Railing,	5 13
“ “ A. B. Emery Stone for Upton Bridge,	8 32
“ “ “ “ “ Richardson “	5 36
“ “ W. French for drawing Stringers,	50
“ “ Robert Day for Labor on North Factory Bridge,	62
“ “ James Scott, “ “ “ “ “ Bridges,	5 75
“ “ Thomas Little “ “ “ “	12 25
“ “ Asa Davis, “ “ “ “	4 50
“ “ Samuel Converse for Breaking Roads,	21 72
“ “ Benjamin Osmore “ “	21 52
“ “ H. C. Hadley “ “	17 79
“ “ John Swallow, Jr. “ “	11 96
“ “ John Smith “ “	10 10
“ “ John Little “ “	9 23
“ “ B. F. Smiley “ “	8 60
“ “ Reuben Washburn “ “	7 10
“ “ D. M. Cavender “ “	5 64
“ “ A. Childs “ “	4 00
“ “ W. S. Bradford “ “	3 40
“ “ Wirling Gregg “ “	3 00
“ “ George Shedd “ “	2 56
“ “ Ruel Richardson “ “	2 08
“ “ Asa Carley “ “	1 12
“ “ John Stewart for covering Stone,	50

\$133 17

For Poor and Poor Farm.

To paid Samuel McCoy, 2d, one year's salary,	280 00
" Abel Boynton for Stove,	6 50
" William Low for painting cart wheels	1 00
" Town of Dublin Taxes,	4 20
" D. B. Cutter medical services,	3 38
" Albert Smith " " Nelly Upton	3 40
" " " " Robinson,	4 50
" Henry Steele goods for Mrs. Mann,	2 42
" S. P. Steele for rent of house for Mrs. Blair,	12 50
" Town of Francetown Quindly family,	13 21
" G. Bassett for cash paid for Lumber, Tools, &c.,	151 96
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	\$483 07

For Abatelements.

To paid town farm,	\$19 00
" " Samuel Fisk,	76
" " J. S. Treadwell,	82
" " George Bond,	95
" " Jacob Upton, Jr., (year 1855),	1 23
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	\$22 76

For Fire Engine.

To paid L. Button & Co., Engine and Hose,	1,157 00
" " " " " " " Hose Cart, &c.,	62 38
" " Cheshire Railroad and Teamster for Freight,	17 20
to G. P. Felt Engine House and Fixtures,	359 62
to Steele, Felt and Little Expenses,	60 59
to Asa Davis, interest on money borrowed,	2 00
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	\$1658 79

Pest House.

To Paid Thomas Upton, 20 days labor,	38 00
to Wm. Diamond, Sickness and Burying G. Scott,	20 00
to J. S. Diamond, Burying G. Scott, &c.,	12 00
to Swallow & Shedd, Teams,	9 26
to Wm. Follansbee, Attendance,	4 00
to D. B. Cutter, Attendance,	17 13
to J. R. Miller, Medicine,	58
to G. T. Wheeler, Goods,	3 37
to Asa Davis, Goods,	5 80
to Thomas Little, Cash Paid for Sundries,	3 91
to Asa Davis, 1 days attendance,	1 50
to Thomas Little, 1 days attendance, &c.,	19 75
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	\$135 30

For Debts Paid.

To John Kinsley, Note,	31 81
to Peterboro' Bank, Note,	1,070 00
to Eaton & Gilchrist, making 79 1-3 Rods Road,	150 73
to Asa Davis, Note and Interest,	62 40

\$1 314 94

For School Money.

To Paid District No. 1,	\$607 38
“ “ “ “ 2,	143 31
“ “ “ “ 3,	137 28
“ “ “ “ 5,	83 17
“ “ “ “ 6,	108 87
“ “ “ “ 7,	122 06
“ “ “ “ 8,	53 21
“ “ “ “ 9,	191 74
“ “ “ “ 11,	70 72
“ “ “ “ 12,	32 83
“ “ D. McClenning,	2 45
“ “ Ruel Richardson,	2 09
“ “ Z. Peavey,	3 88
“ “ D. M. Cavender,	2 42
“ “ E. Perry,	34
“ “ D. McClenning, for year 1853,	1 82
“ “ Teachers' Institute,	48 66
“ “ A. S. Scott, Sup't School Committee,	30 00

\$1 642 23

Incidentals.

To Paid H. Newton, for Lumber and Labor on Li- brary Room,	5 00
To Paid Goodyear Bassett, for Shingles,	30 00
“ “ W. Washburn, “	5 25
“ “ G. P. Felt, Lumber and Labor	1 40
“ “ Henry Steele, for nails,	3 40
“ “ James Scott, shingling Town House,	11 00
“ “ Thomas Little, “ “ “	8 50
“ “ J. B. Decatur, “ “ “	4 50
“ “ Noah Smith, “ “ “	3 12
“ “ John Smith, 2d, Rep. Stove in Town House,	1 08
“ “ Albert Smith, Returning Births and Deaths,	1 95
“ “ Ira Crombie, damage on horse and wagon, 1854,	4 00
“ “ T. K. Ames, “ “ “ “ 1855,	30 00
“ “ K. C. Scott, Printing Treasurer's Receipts,	3 50
“ “ Charles Scott, for Printing Town Reports, &c.	33 75
“ “ “ “ “ “ Notice and tolling bell,	17 25
“ “ A. P. Morrison, Record Book, &c.,	17 00
“ “ Henry Steele, Letter Postage and Paper,	70

To paid Kinsley & Brooks, use of room for taking taxes,	2 00
" " J. D. Diamond, for Enrolling Soldiers,	5 00
" " James Scott, Auditing Accounts,	1 00
" " Susan M. Gates, taking care of Library,	30 00
" " Rufus Forbush, Services as Town Clerk,	18 40
" " J. H. Ames, Services as Sexton,	63 84
" " Eri Spaulding, Services as Selectman,	5 75
" " Amzi Childs, " " "	6 38
" " Diocletian Melville, " " "	8 38
" " James Scott, " " "	58 00
" " Thomas Little, " " "	89 25
" " Asa Davis, " " "	64 00
" " E. S. Cutter, paying State & Cnty Tax, and Ser.,	8 74
" " Henry Steele, Treasurer,	30 00
" " J. N. Thayer, services as Collector,	30 00
" " " " Constable,	10 65
" " Asa Davis, " " Liquor Agent,	150 00
" " Henry Steele, for extra Services,	5 00

\$767 79

Literary Fund.

To paid Town Library Committee,	45 00
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Recapitulation.

Balance in Treasury,	255 75	Paid State Tax,	567 70
J. N. Thayer, Collector,	600 00	County Tax,	1041 51
Selectmen, for Circus,	30 00	Literary Fund,	45 00
Money Borrowed,	1770 00	Roads and Bridges,	433 17
Literary Fund,	148 96	Poor and Poor Farm,	483 07
Railroad Tax,	35 73	Debts Paid,	1314 94
Liquor Agent,	284 19	Schools,	1642 23
Rec'd on subscription list		Abatements,	22 76
for Engine,	806 00	Incidentals,	767 79
Jaffrey for Engine Hose,	25 25	Fire Engine,	1658 79
Taxes collected by Trea.	5.303 83	Small Pox,	135 30
Selectmen Highway Tax,	211 63	Cash in hands of Treas.	1359 08
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	\$9.471 34		\$9471 34

Town Liquor Agency.

Dr.		Cr.	
To Liquor on hand,	222 20	By Cash pd. Treasurer,	284 19
To Interest on same,	13 33	By Liquor on hand,	100 00
To Salary of Agent,	150 00	By balance against Town,	1 34
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	\$385 53		\$385 53

Town Liabilities.

Due Goodyear Bassett for one year's Salary,	250 00
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To New Road when completed,	551 27
J. S. Morrison, Land Damage,	2 00
Wm. M. White, " "	1 00
Adam Penniman, Note and Interest,	127 52
Nancy Wilkins, " "	1080 50
Benj. Osmore, " "	412 00
John Cummings, " "	315 00
Chas. McCoy for use of House for Small Pox, tendered Mar. 2,	25 00
John Upton for Breaking Road,	3 50
Wm. R. Haywood " "	15 62
Calvin Leathers, " "	9 44
Samuel Miller 1st, " "	14 72
Cyrus E. Partridge, Breaking Roads,	1 50

\$2809 07

Amount Due the Town.

Cash in hands of the Treasurer,	1359 08
Outstanding Taxes for 1852, 53, 54, 55 and 56,	312,86
Liquor in hands of Agent,	100 00

\$1771 94

Balance against the Town, \$1037 13

WE the undersigned, Auditors of accounts, have this day examined the foregoing accounts for the past year, and find them correctly cast and fully vouched.

ABIAL SAWYER,
DANIEL B. CUTTER, } *Auditors,*
NORTON HUNT,

Peterborough, March 3d, 1857.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

— OF THE —

POOR FARM FOR 1857.

Stock, Produce &c. on Farm March 1st 1857.

1 yoke of Oxen,	\$135 00	Amount brought up	757 00
1 pr. four year old Steers,	80 00	1 Horse,	100 00
1 " three " " "	50 00	20 Sheep,	65 00
7 Cows,	251 00	3 Swine,	25 00
4 three year old Heifers,	111 00	18 Hens,	5 40
6 two " "	100 00		
3 Calves,	30 00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	757 00		952 40

Produce and Provisions:

13 3-4 tons best Eng. Hay,	165 00	Brought up	504 71
13 tons 2d qual. Eng. Hay,	117 00	6 prs. feeting,	2 50
7 tons Meadow Hay,	35 00	5-8 bush. Peas,	67
2 tonsoat Straw,	12 00	1 3-4 bush. Salt,	1 20
47 1-2 Bush. Corn,	47 50	31 lbs. Sausages,	3 72
104 1-2 " Oats,	52 25	81 1-2 lbs. Lard,	13 86
2 bush. Colored Beans,	3 00	40 lbs. Fresh Pork,	4 00
1 3-4 bush. White Beans,	3 75	34 " Tallow,	4 08
150 lbs. Flour,	7 31	23 " Candles,	3 87
4 bush. Carrots,	1 00	57 " Butter,	13 68
3 " Turnips,	50	156 " Cheese,	15 60
Onions,	17	80 bush. Potatoes,	38 40
7 Heads Cabbage,	25	325 lbs. Salt Pork,	45 50
8 gall. Vinegar,	1 34	260 " Beef,	20 80
1-2 bbl. Cider,	1 00	210 " Ham,	29 40
13 1-2 lbs. Yarn,	13 50	15 lbs. Mutton,	95
12 3-4 yds. Frocking,	7 90	3 1-2 bbls. Soap,	10 50
9 yds. Full Cloth,	9 00	6 M. Hemlock Shingles,	13 00
41 yds. Sheeting,	3 89	2 lbs. Rolls,	1 00
6 M. Shaved Pine Shingles,	19 85	2294 ft. Lumber,	16 00
2 prs. Sled Runners & Lumber,	3 50	775 " White Ash Plank,	11 63
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	504 71		755 02

DEBTS.

Account of Receipts and Expenditures on the Town Farm for the support of the Poor for year ending March 1st 1857.

Farm as appraised March 1st 1856,			\$3466 94
1 Single Sleigh,	14 00	Amount brought up	101 75
1 Harness,	8 00	4 Draught Chains,	3 00
2 Carts,	50 00	2 Stake Chains,	80
4 Hoes,	1 00	3 Yokes & 2 setts Irons & Bows, 5 Co	

2 Manure Forks,	1 50	Beetle and Wedges,	1 00
3 Shovels,	2 00	5 Rakes,	50
4 Pitch Forks,	1 25	2 Scythes and Snaths,	2 00
1 Ox Sled,	75	1 Brush Scythe,	75
1 Single Wagon and Buffalo,	8 00	3 Axes,	2 00
1 Grind Stone,	2 00	1 Iron Bar,	1 50
2 Harrows,	3 00	1 Hand Saw,	34
4 Plows,	10 00	1 Wood Saw,	75
1 Scalding Tub,	25	Interest on Farm and Tools,	215 17
	<hr/> 101 75		

Stock on Farm March 1st, 1856,	851 00
Produce on Farm,	505 55
Provisions "	223 08
Amount due Superintendent, April 1st, 1857.	250 00
Produce sold from Farm by Sup't to pay store, blacksmith bills, &c., as per his acct.,	398 53

BILLS PAID BY TREASURER, 1857, MARCH 1st.

Abel Boynton, for stove;	6 50
Wm. Low, for painting cart wheels,	1 00
Town Dublin; tax, 1857,	4 20
Dr. D. B. Cutter, for medical services at Poor Farm,	3 40
Dr. A. Smith, " " " " "	4 50
Stephen P. Steele, Rent for Mrs. Blair,	12 50
Town Frankestown, for Quinley Family,	13 21
Goodyear Bassett for Stock, Tools and Lumber,	151 96

\$6226 95

CREDIT, MARCH 1st., 1857.

To Farm as appraised March 1st, 1857,	3466 94
Tools, as appraised March 1st, 1857,	119 39
Stock on Farm,	952 40
Provisions, Produce and Lumber,	755 02
Produce furnished Simon Forbush,	17 40
By Cash paid by Sup't for store, blacksmith bills; Extra Labor, &c., as per his acct.,	381 15
Due from county,	24 30
By Cash paid for Stock,	75 00
By Cash paid for Shingles, Tools, &c.,	76 96

\$5868 56

Amount of debt;	6226 95
Amount of credit,	5868 56

Balance against Farm,	\$358 39.
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The whole number of Paupers on the Farm, March 1st, 1857, was 11.—
The number supported during the year was 9 with the addition of 1 ten months.

The above Report is respectfully submitted,

JAMES SCOTT,	{ Selectmen of Peterboro'.
THOMAS LITTLE,	
ASA DAVIS,	

New Hampshire State Library



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